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72
MAR

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

# CEREBUS

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# N O T E • F R O M • T H E P R E S I D E N T

You know, it's not really true that there's nothing to say in this space. I mean this would be a great spot to clear up a lot of the confusing plots and sub-plots and sub-sub-plots.

I mean, I **could** tell you when Jaka is coming back, then, couldn't I? Wouldn't that make sitting down and filling all this empty space worth while? Well that depends.

There are people in the world who don't **want** to know what changes are going to take place. There are other people who soak up previews like a sponge soaks up water. Unfortunately, I'm one of the former rather than latter individuals. I watched STAR TREK II on television the other night up until the last half hour when Spock stands up and goes out to die. I had known that was what he was going to do so why extend the eyestrain?

What I **can** tell you is that this section of the Cerebus story-line now has a name.

"Church and State."

Like it? Well who cares. That's what it's called.

I've had a few comments in the last while that time isn't passing as quickly in the story-line as, say, in issue 27. This is largely a reaction on my part to the cramming I had to do in the "High Society" storyline. If the overall reaction to "High Society's" conclusion had been "Shit, Dave, that was a long way to go for nothing", I probably would have made a more concerted effort to provide a series of sixty and eighty page stories with a lot of "Three days later..." and "After a series of misadventures..." captions strewn throughout.

Quite the contrary, the reaction (particularly from those people who started reading the book in the last two years and have read "High Society" in one sitting) has been in **favour** of the extended story-line.

To pull the curtain aside ever-so-slightly, "Church and State" is largely concerned with Cerebus' personal identity crisis set in motion in issue 5 when he discovers the Pigts (and vice versa). Is he Cerebus, The Great Cerebus, Most Holy, a combination of all three? If a combination of all three, in what percentage does each dictate his thoughts and actions?

Now the **only** way to illustrate this effectively in my opinion (and as me Dad used to say "Who else's opinion counts around here?") is to show you the little bastard bouncing off his mental walls in great detail over a couple of days and take an ungodly number of issues to do it.

Consider the implications of selecting **one** of those identities given his present circumstances. Pick an identity. And identity.

Okay get your noses out from behind my curtain and start reading.

See you next issue.

## *PERSONAL APPEARANCES*

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# CEREBUS

NO. 72 MAR 1985

**DAVE SIM**
PRESIDENT

**KAREN McKIEL**
ADMINISTRATOR

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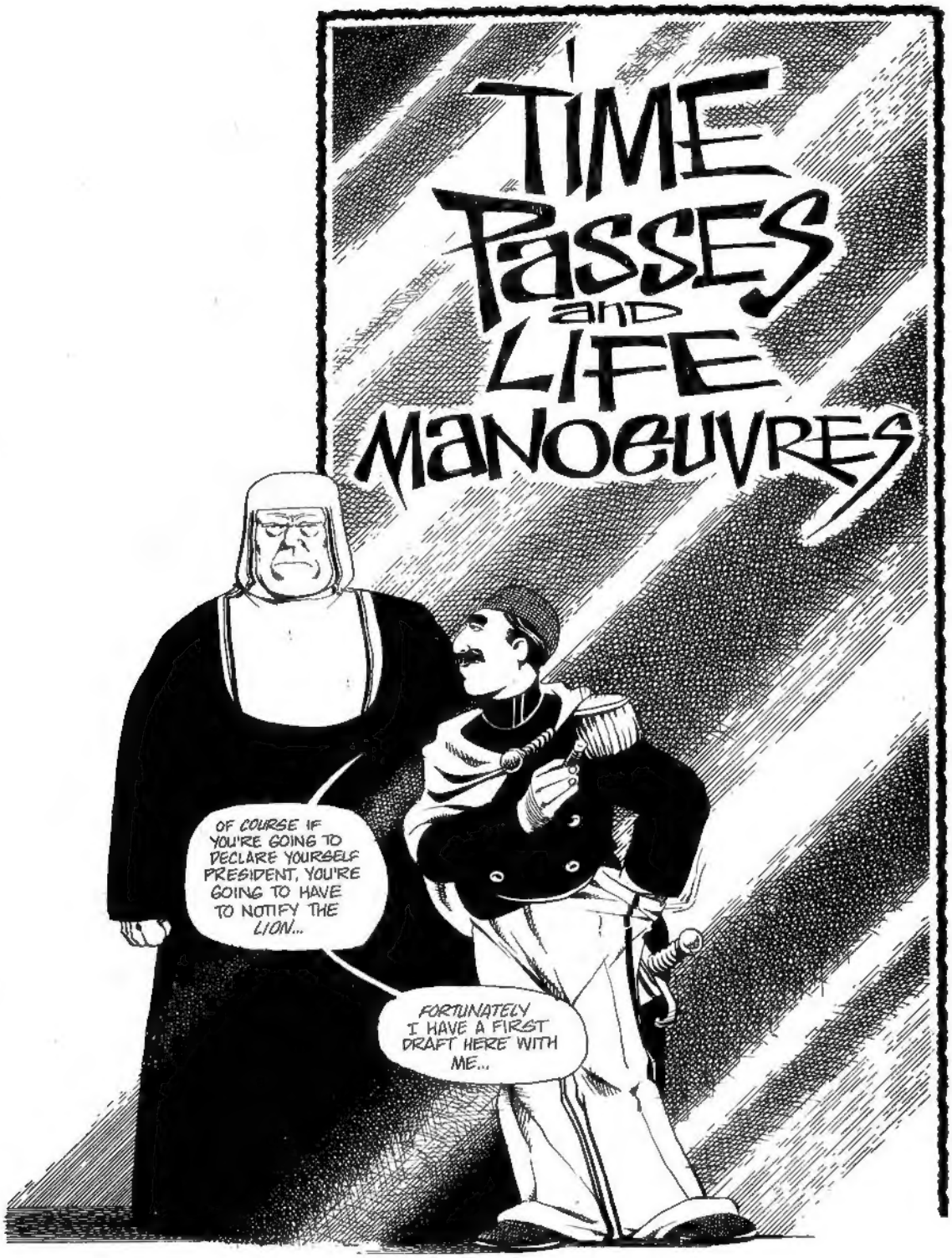

TIME Passes and LIFE MANOEUVRES
OF COURSE IF YOU'RE GOING TO DECLARE YOURSELF PRESIDENT, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO NOTIFY THE LION...
FORTUNATELY I HAVE A FIRST DRAFT HERE WITH ME...

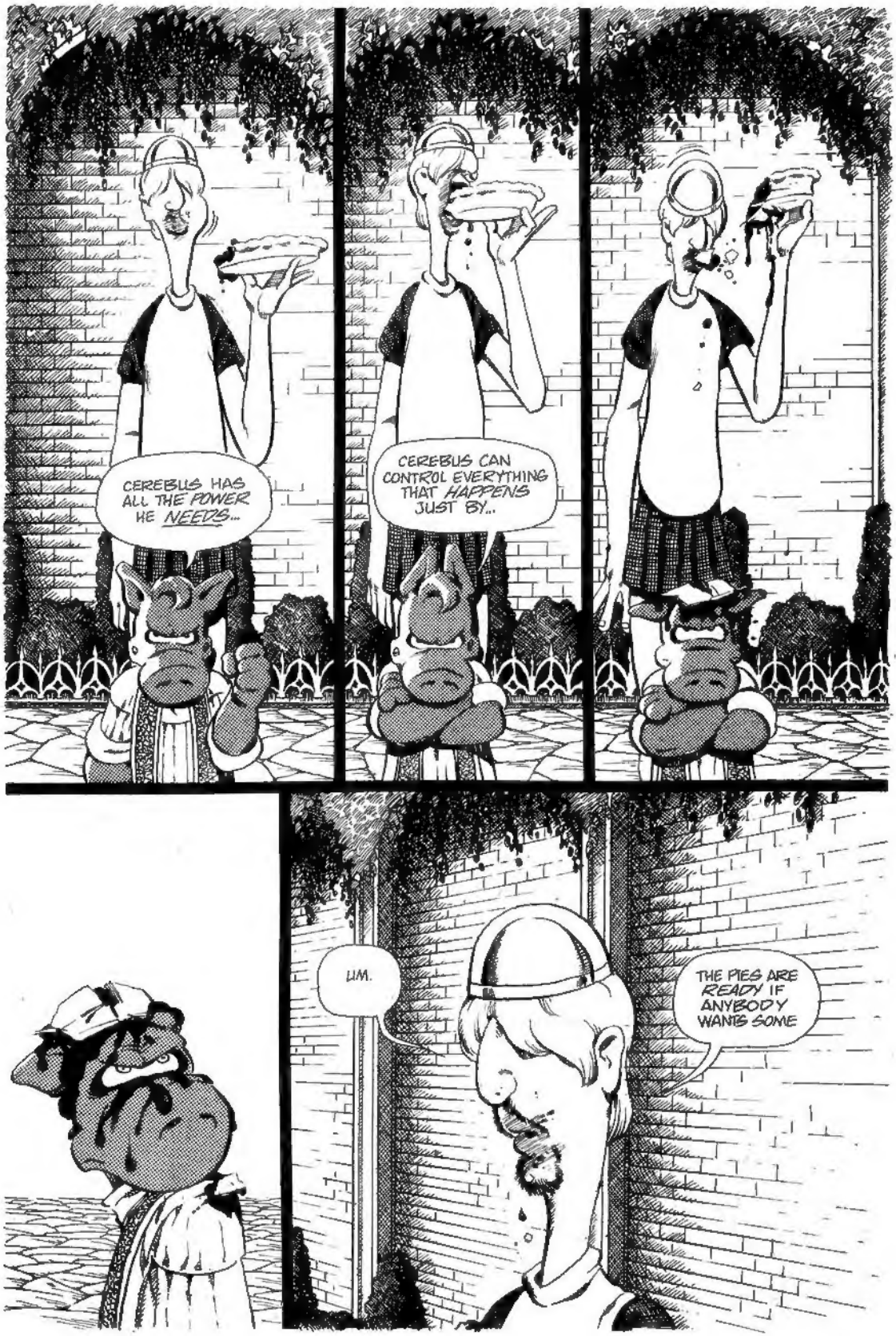
"DEAR LION SEMI-COLON HOW IS YOUR WIFE AND MY KIDS?"
FLIP
SORRY WRONG ONE.
CRUMPLE CRUMPLE
AH! HERE WE ARE!
"DEAR LION SEMI-COLON HOW IS MRS. LION AND ALL THE CUBS QUESTION MARK. DID YOU HAVE A NICE CONCORDANCE EVE QUESTION MARK. THINGS ARE PRETTY GOOD HERE IN 1EST PERIOD I AM MAKING LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS PERIOD GUESS THAT'S ALL FOR NOW PERIOD. SINCERELY ETCETERA...
"P.S. I'M DECLARING MYSELF PRESIDENT PERIOD WILL WRITE IF I NEED MORE LEGIONS."
MM. NEEDS A LITTLE MORE WORK ...
WHAT HAPPENS IF CEREBUS TELLS EVERYONE THAT THE WORLD WON'T END?...

WHY, THEN IT WON'T
AS I'VE SAID "ALL WILL BE AS THE..."
WHAT IF CEREBUS WAITS TIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TELL THEM?
THAT WOULD BE...
DIFFICULT TO SAY...
SO CEREBUS CAN'T MAKE THINGS HAPPEN JUST BY WILLING THEM TO?
OH THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT YOU COULD DO IT, GREAT CEREBUS...

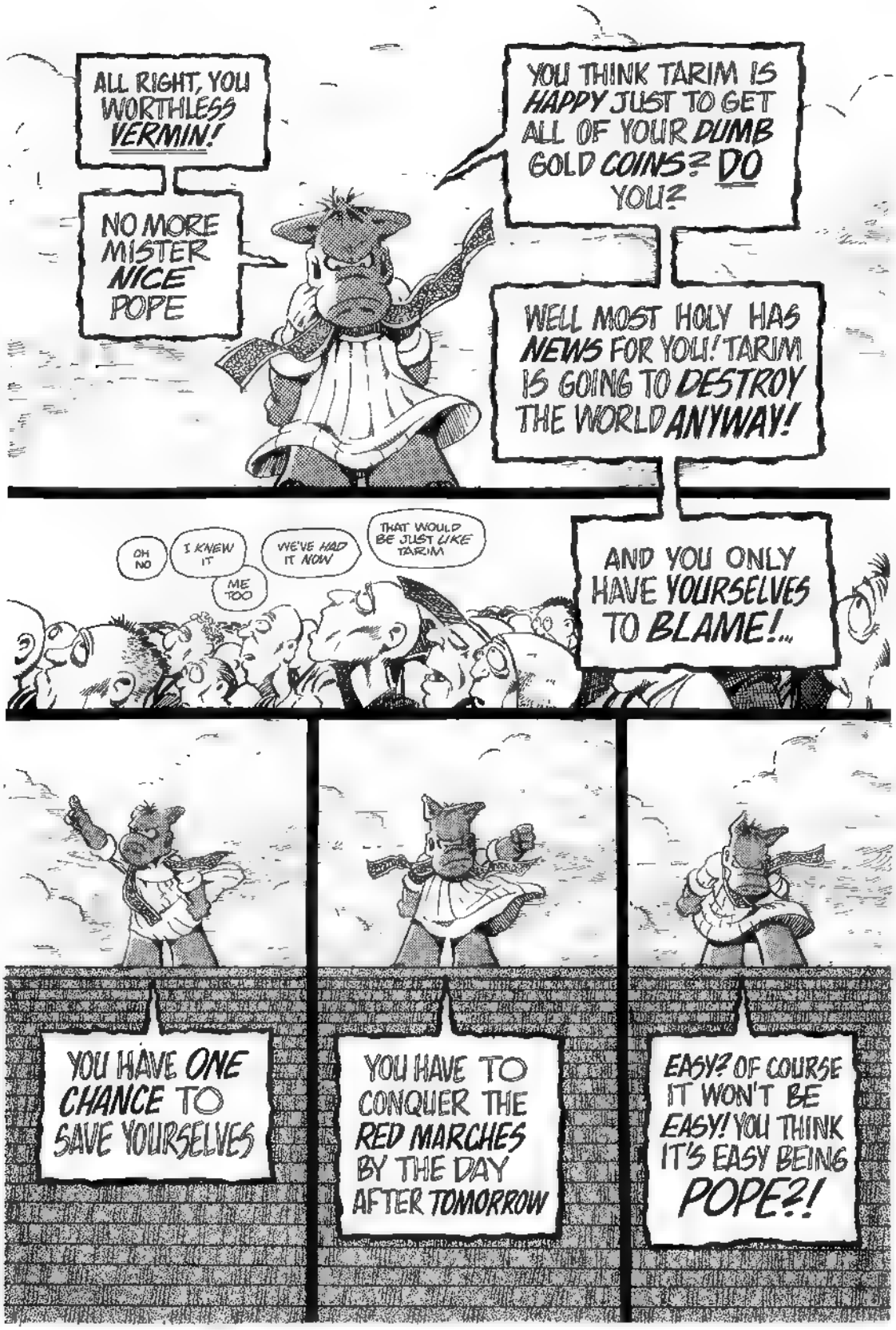
IT IS JUST DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THE.... REPERCUSSIONS.
THERE IS SOME REASON YOU WISH ME TO BECOME PRESIDENT... YES?
OF COURSE THERE IS. I WANT TO SEE HOW YOU LOOK IN A POWDERED WIG...
THIS IS SOME SORT OF STUPID GAME YOU'RE PLAYING
IT IS?
I LOVE GAMES...
WHAT ARE THE RULES?
YOU SEEK TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME AND MAKE ME DO WHAT YOU WANT ME TO!
THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO DIFFICULT...
HOW AM I DOING SO FAR?
YOU'LL NOT FOOL ME LORD JULIUS ...

PROBABLY NOT...
YOU'RE A PRETTY BRIGHT FELLOW
I ALMOST HAD YOU THOUGH DIDN'T I?
PRETENDING I WANTED THE JOB...
PRETENDING?
OF COURSE... BUT YOU SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME YOU CLEVER RASCAL YOU...
WHY, THE NEXT MAN TO BECOME PRESIDENT MIGHT AS WELL SIGN HIS OWN DEATH WARRANT
IF I WERE YOU I'D APPOINT SOME TROUBLE-MAKER YOU WANT TO GET RID OF..
IF THE BANKERS DON'T GET HIM, THE STATE LEADERS WILL. AND IF THE STATE LEADERS DON'T GET HIM WEISS-HAUPT'S CRONIES WILL-- NOT TO MENTION THE FOOD IN THE EXECUTIVE MANSION
YES SIR. YOU COULDN'T PAY ME ENOUGH TO BE PRESIDENT!

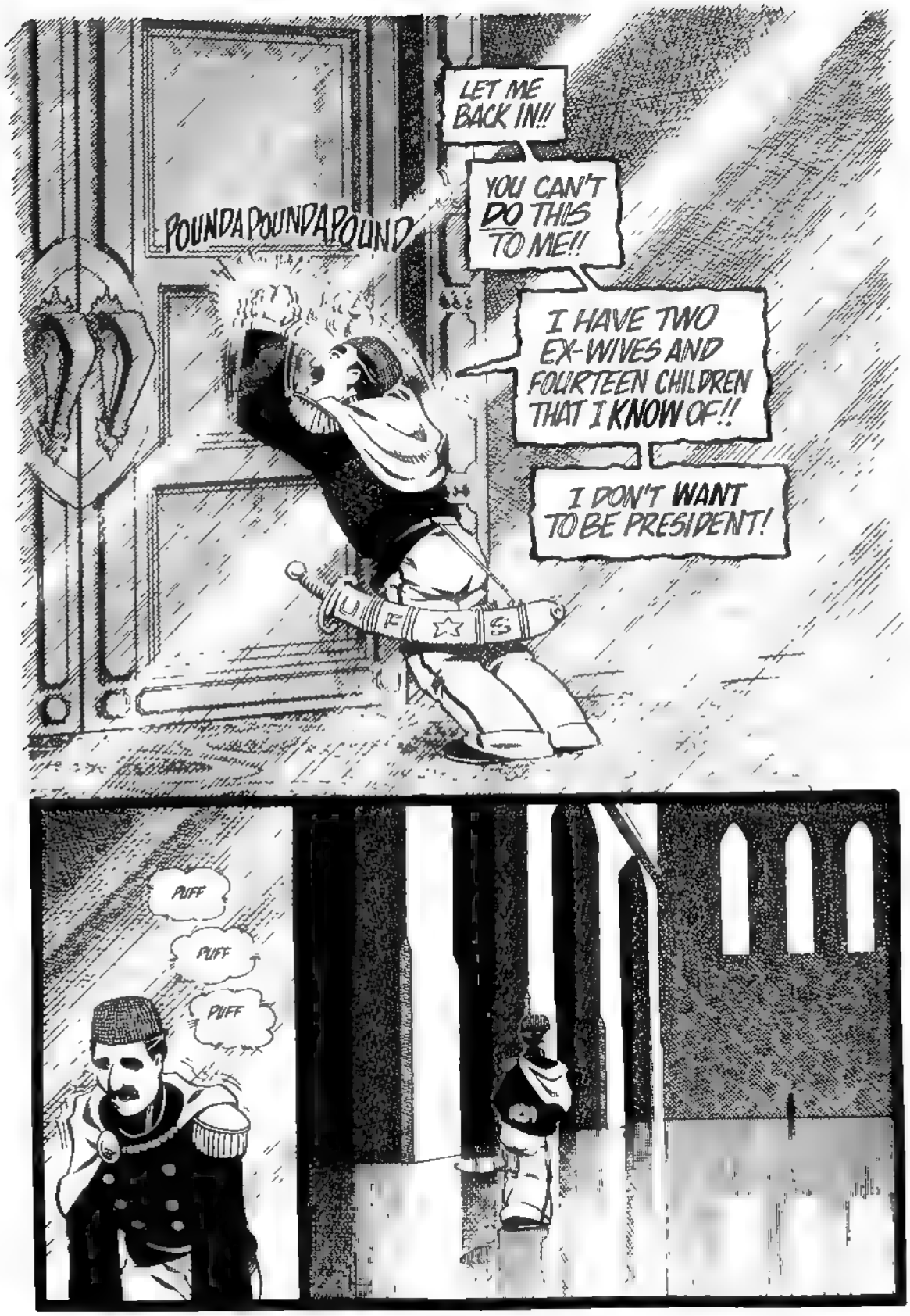
FORCES WILL BE SET IN MOTION
HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET IN MOTION ...
AND YOU DON'T THINK CEREBUS CAN HANDLE THEM.
IT ISN'T THAT...
THERE'S JUST SO MUCH ...
THE SHEER MAGNITUDE ...
FORGIVE ME GREAT CEREBUS. I AM A MERE MORTAL...
BY MY LACK OF FAITH I BETRAY YOU ...
THAT'S TRUE...
BUT CEREBUS IS PERFECT
CEREBUS JUST HAS TO HAVE FAITH IN HIMSELF ...


CEREBUS HAS ALL THE POWER HE NEEDS...
CEREBUS CAN CONTROL EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS JUST BY...
UM.
THE PIES ARE READY IF ANYBODY WANTS SOME

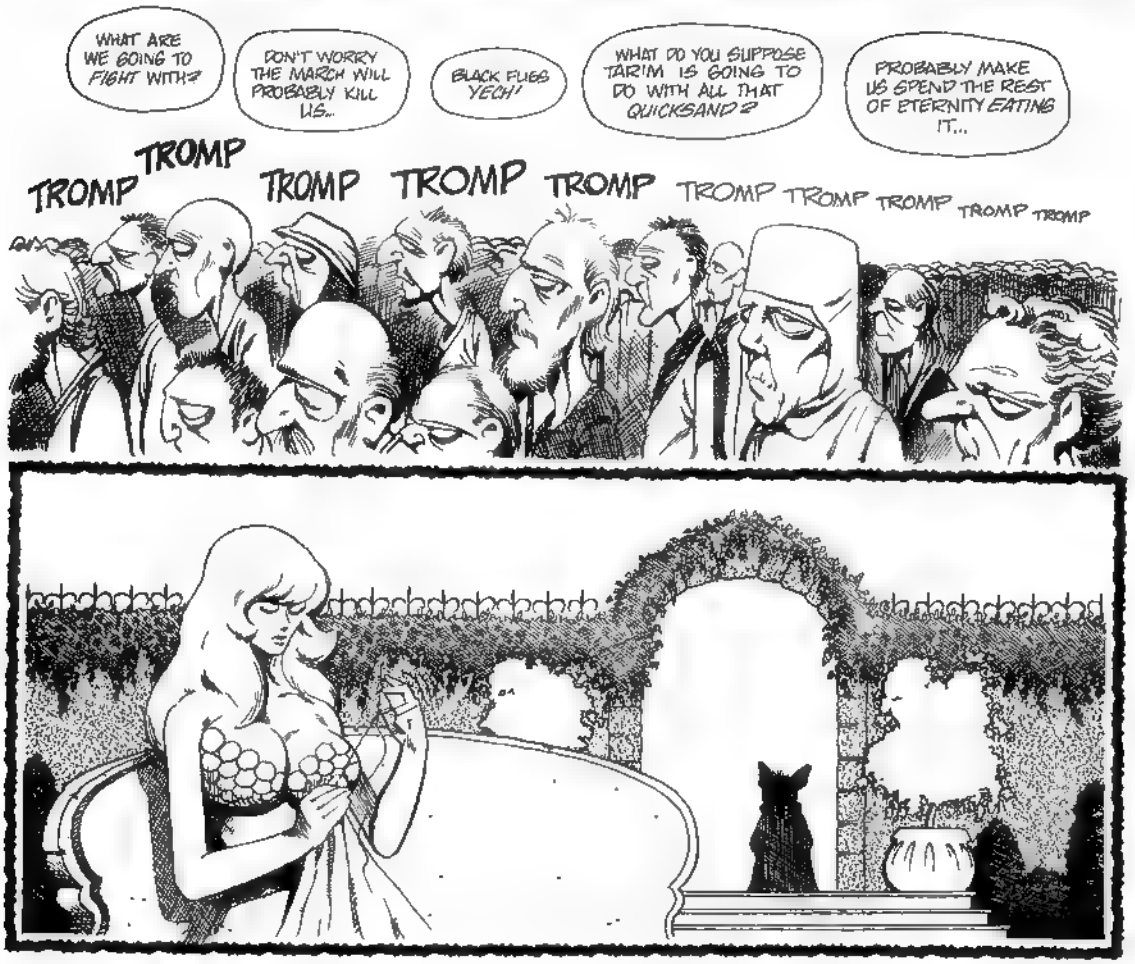
SKRUNT
UM FORRY
UM FORRY
UM FORRY
UM FORRY
UM FORRY
UM FORRY
THAT DOES IT "
CEREBUS MAY BE PERFECT
BUT EVEN A PERFECT POPE HAS HIS LIMITS...
SQUINCH SQUINCH
AND THEN IT'S TIME TO MAKE A SPEECH...


ALL RIGHT, YOU WORTHLESS VERMIN!
NO MORE MISTER NICE POPE
YOU THINK TARIM IS HAPPY JUST TO GET ALL OF YOUR DUMB GOLD COINS? DO YOU?
WELL MOST HOLY HAS NEWS FOR YOU! TARIM IS GOING TO DESTROY THE WORLD ANYWAY!
OH NO
I KNEW IT
ME TOO
WE'VE HAD IT NOW
THAT WOULD BE JUST LIKE TARIM
AND YOU ONLY HAVE YOURSELVES TO BLAME!...
YOU HAVE ONE CHANCE TO SAVE YOURSELVES
YOU HAVE TO CONQUER THE RED MARCHES BY THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
EASY? OF COURSE IT WON'T BE EASY! YOU THINK IT'S EASY BEING POPE?!

MOST HOLY JUST HAD HALF A BLACKBERRY PIE DROPPED ON HIS HEAD--
ALL OF MOST HOLY'S HAIR IS STUCK TOGETHER AND MOST HOLY CAN'T HEAR OUT OF HIS LEFT EAR!
WHY? BECAUSE HIS LEFT EAR IS FULL OF BLACKBERRIES AND PIE CRUST
IF MOST HOLY HAS TO SUFFER EVERYBODY HAS TO SUFFER...
The Great Cenobus has spoken. The Red Marches first
Bran
AND REMEMBER! TARIM WANTS ALL OF THE RED MARCHES!
ESPECIALLY THE QUICKSAND AND THE BLACK FLIES...


POUNDA POUNDA POUND
LET ME BACK IN!!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!!
I HAVE TWO EX-WIVES AND FOURTEEN CHILDREN THAT I KNOW OF!!
I DON'T WANT TO BE PRESIDENT!
U F ☆ S
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF

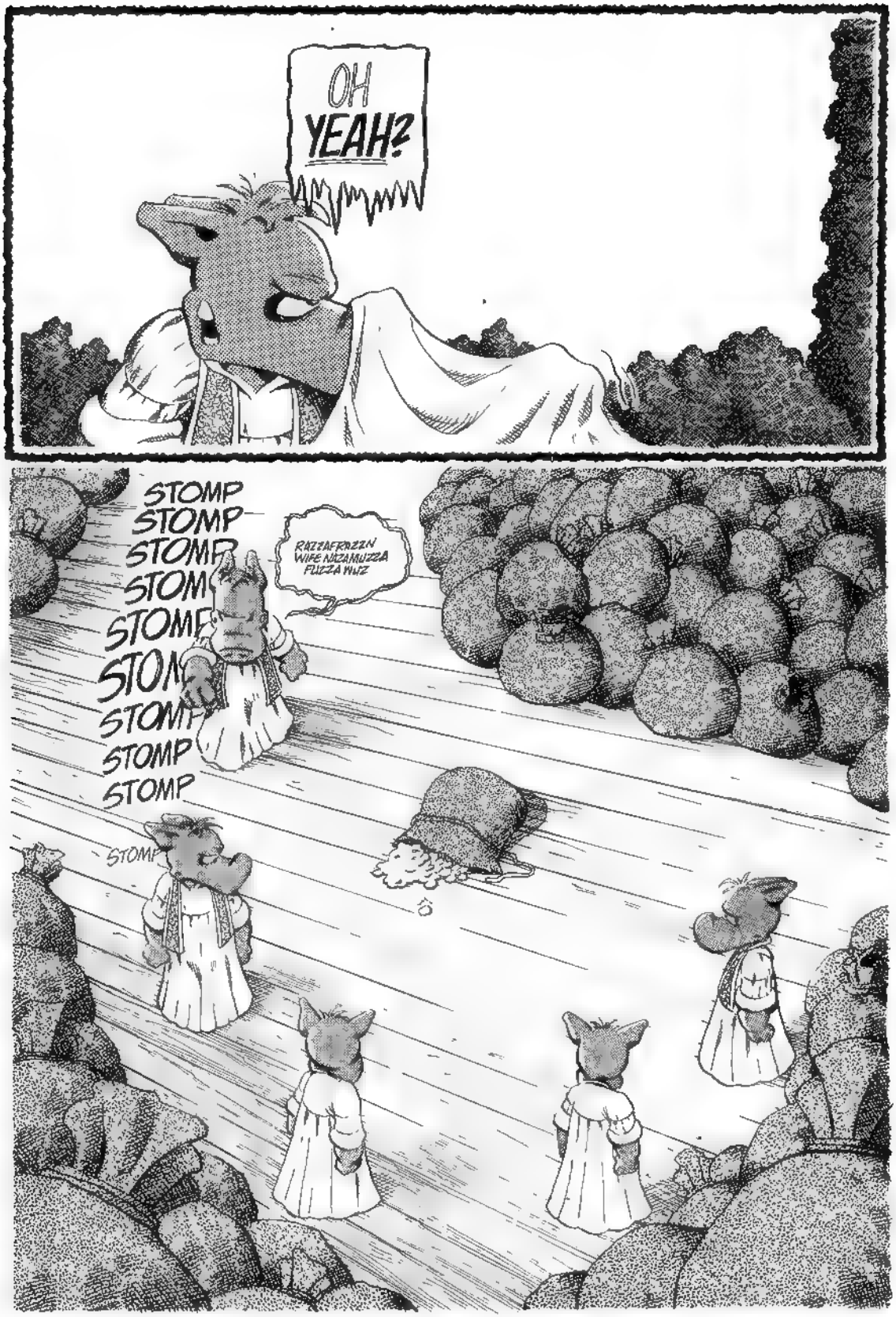
HE FELL FOR IT!
INAUGURATION'S THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...
AMAZING
IT TOOK ALMOST AN HOUR, THOUGH
I MUST BE LOSING MY TOUCH.

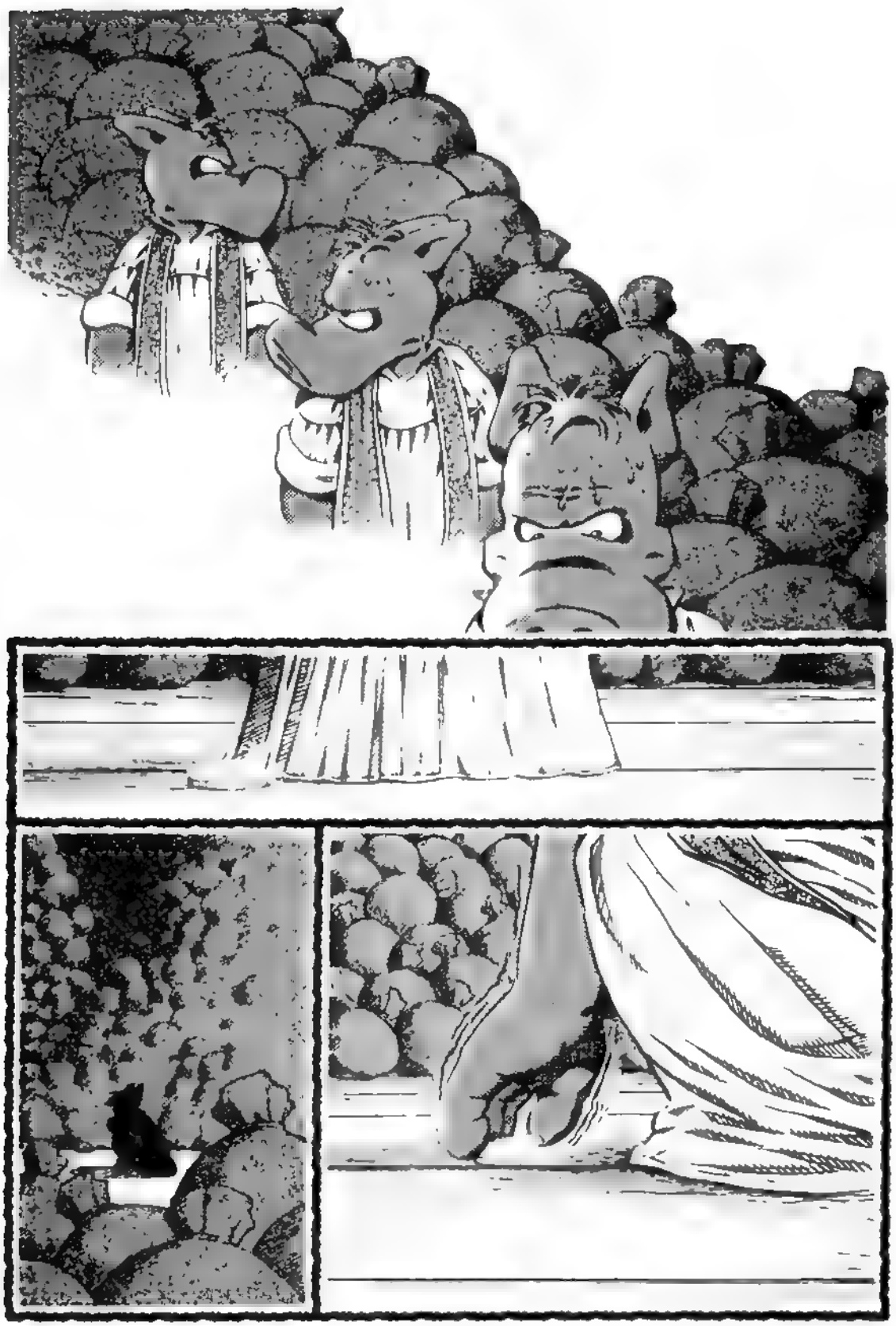

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO FIGHT WITH?
DON'T WORRY THE MARCH WILL PROBABLY KILL US...
BLACK FLIES YECH!
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE TARIM IS GOING TO DO WITH ALL THAT QUICKSAND?
PROBABLY MAKE US SPEND THE REST OF ETERNITY EATING IT...
TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP

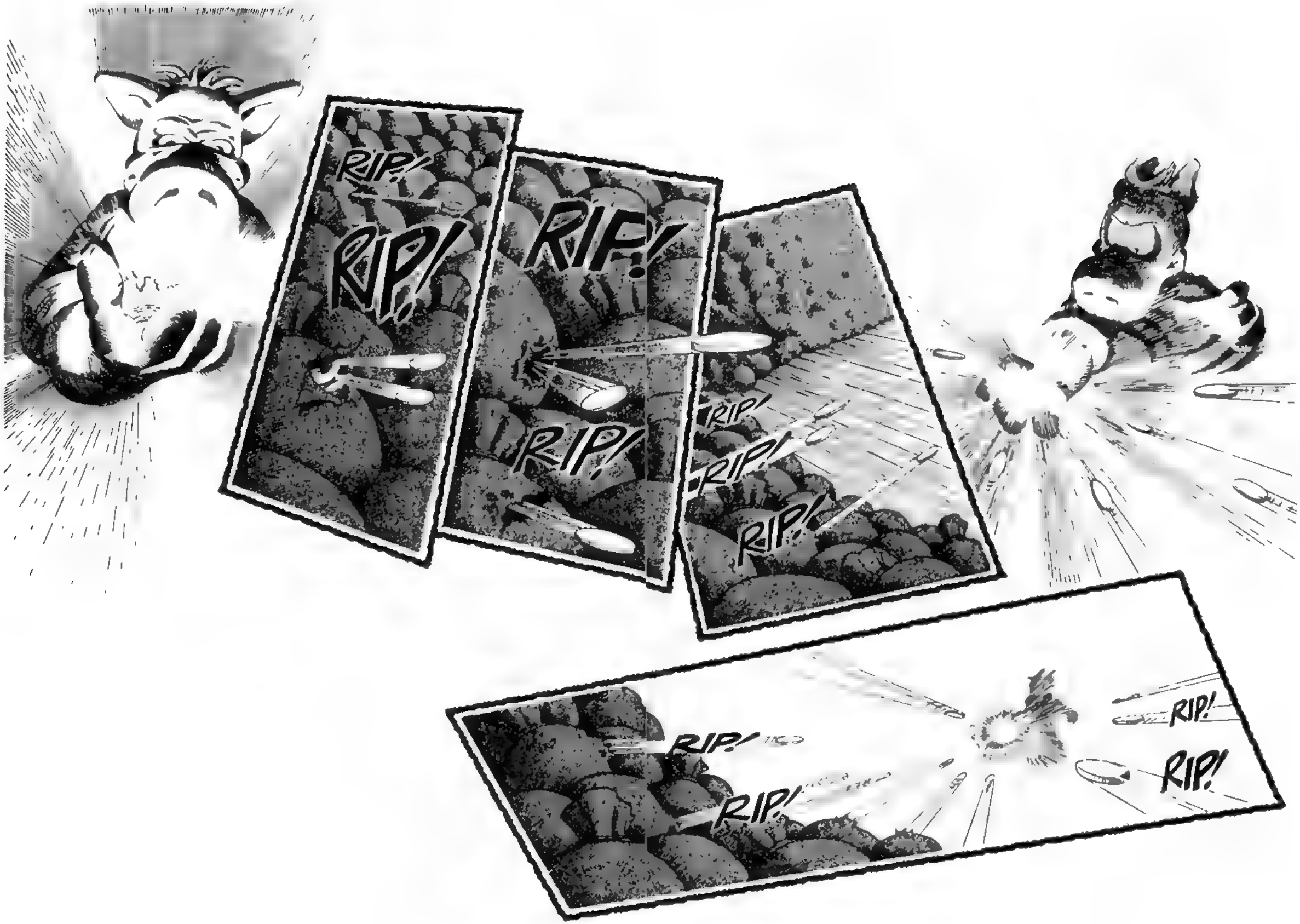
WELL...
MOST HOLY JUST ORDERED EVERYONE TO CAPTURE THE RED MARCHES...
THAT'S NICE
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR COLD?
SNIFF
SNIFF SNIFF
IT'S GONE!
SO-- UM...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MENDING YOUR ROBE
MOST HOLY CAN HIRE SOMEBODY TO DO THAT
YOU'RE WELCOME.
HUH?
NOTHING.

YAWN
SO! IT LOOKS LIKE THE GREAT DREAM IS HAPPENING JUST LIKE ASRAN SAID IT WOULD
'GREAT DREAM'?
WHAT'S THAT?
THE GREAT DREAM!
WHERE EVERYTHING HAPPENS THE WAY CEREBUS WANTS IT TO
IS THIS YOUR GREAT DREAM.....OR HIS?
IT'S EVERYONE'S GREAT DREAM...
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR CENTURIES FOR THE GREAT CEREBUS...
IT MUST BE A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT TO THEM THAT YOU'RE SO SHORT AND OBNOXIOUS...

MOST HOLY COULD CONDEMN YOU TO SPEND THE REST OF ETERNITY HANGING BY YOUR HAIR WITH HUNDRED POUND WEIGHTS ON YOUR ANKLES!!
FLIP
BUMP


OH YEAH?
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
RAZZAFRAZZN WIFE NAZAMUZZA FUZZA WUZ




RIP!
RIP!
RIP!
RIP!
RIP!
RIP!
RIP!
RIP!
RIP!
RIP!

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# AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dearest Dave:

I was quite perturbed by the letter in issue 69 written by Anonymous. You see, I don't even know anyone named Anonymous and if he had truly, truly been doing his homework, he would have known that I had my phone number listed under my great-great-grandmother's maiden name. It's that simple. I don't think he's looking for me, I think he's looking for Connie of **Connie and The Linguistics.**

But I have come up with a solution to the problem of having two presidents. Each of them can be presidents of their own chapters of **The Connie Lingus Fan Club.** But from now on, all presidential candidates must meet at least one of these requirements:

1. They must know, by heart, at least three songs by my band **Connie Lingus and The Heartless Ravens.**

2. Have seen one of my films, either **The Exquisite Sanctity of Connie Lingus,** directed by Sidney Mindfield, or my own **Baited Breath.**

3. Be a personal friend of Stu Ballatt.

Until the next Cerebus, or the monthly sacrifice, which ever comes first, I'll be forever yours,

Hisses,

*Connie Lingus*
*c/o Stu Ballatt*
*3423 Race Street.*
*Philadelphia, PA., 19104*

***A couple of more letters and we should have enough information for a C. Lingus Trivial Pursuit Game.***

**********

Dear Dave,

Early in October, at the Comics and Comix in Berkeley, you drew Cerebus spray painting his name on a wall for me. I promised to spray paint Cerebus on a wall for you. Enclosed are pictures of the result. There was but one close call with the police. Ah the adrenalin! The Cerebus piece is about seven feet from bottom of snout to tip of ear. To the right of Cerebus is an AMA piece. Anti Matter Aardvarks is now one of the millions of things AMA stands for. I hope you enjoy this Cerebus piece. Oh yeah, Rory wants to know if Gerhard will do backgrounds.

Best of luck and long live Most Holy,

*Thorn*
*Berzerkeley, CA.*

***Naturally, I don't condone vandalism of this kind. Still it is a bit of a giggle, isn't it?***

**********

Dear Dave,

At last! At last! A realistic, caring, sensitive, warm, intelligent, believable, handsome, sexy, three-dimensional, well dressed, discerning character is finally portrayed in your book! This sergeant Major Bennie was a Tour De Force! A major break through in the comics medium. What depth! What pantos! I cried, when, in his true devotion to his basic tenets of life, gave his life for the benefit of all mankind! What realism!

Truly Cerebus #69 will be recognized as the milestone in your career. In this, in my opinion you have surpassed anything done by Disney!

Sincerely,

*Paul Bene*

(pronounced, coincidentally, exactly the same as the aformentioned brilliantly produced character. Come to think of it, I also look very much like him...Hey! Wait a minnit!... Why you lousy... You'll be hearing from my lawyer!... Couldn't even spell it right!...)

***Actually, Bennie was the name of my ex-girl friend's cat. But you're perfectly entitled to be flattered if you're into it, Paul.***

Dear Dave,

I have two questions that need to be cleared up. First, when will we see more of Cerebus the Barbarian? Second, how about putting a Cerebus annual or graphic novel into print?

*Stan Mah*
*313 N. 4th Street,*
*Alhambra, CA., 91801*

***First, when Cerebus Jam comes out. Second, no. Hope that gives you a little piece of mind.***

**********

Dave,

You missed getting my first fan letter by five minutes, but you lost to Flaming Carrot, so A-V still wins. I've been reading Cerebus since about issue 12 and consider it one of the best out today. I was a little worried about what would happen after High Society, but this Cerebus as Pope story-line is working out great. I'm glad you're going to be coming out with Cerebus Jam. I think you need something to introduce Cerebus to people who haven't followed the last thirty issues. Also thanks for all the other comics A-V is putting out. I follow all but Neil the Horse, I never could get into it. Well, that's my loss. Keep up the great work and remember you make the world more fun for a lot of people.

*Scott Narriman*
*55 Downer Avenue, #2*
*Dorchester, MA., 02125*

***And anybody who lives on a street called Downer Ave has got to be up for some industrial strength cheering up.***

**********

Hello David:

This is DEATH. I am concerned about your health. By the looks of your recent issues, I have a right to believe that you are working quite strenuously. I am quite concerned. You are a good man. One who should not be finished before his time. Please take my advice. Get some rest and stop touring for a short period of time. I would have called you sooner, but the DEATHphone is out of order. Oh, by the way, Connie Lingus' days are numbered in single digits. **Mortis,** the DEATHsteed, neighs, "Hello".

*DEATH*
*23 Stanton Road,*
*c/o the DEATHhouse*
*Darien, CT., 06820*

***Got your message and booked myself a week in the Bahamas. I***

***appreciate getting a little warning. Feel free to write if you see my number coming up again. Give Mortis some oats for me.***

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

"Sick? Sick?!" Yeah, you bet I'm sick, pal, but who wouldn't be in a world where your dog can't get enough cheese in his diet and all they ever show on HBO is "Beastmaster" and Betty and Veronica are "just good friends?"

Oh, I don't know, maybe it's just my upbringing. I was born just outside of Wedlock, Indiana (near the Plywood Forest) on a spaghetti ranch my folks owned (the ranch was 1,000 acres long by 3 inches wide); then, one day, a warm rain came and wiped us out.

(What happened after we lost the ranch can be seen in the upcoming maxi-series, "Stan: The Secret Years")

So it's just been one fiasco after another, Dave, and you, ya big lug, ya big palooka, have the nerve to call me sick? Okay, maybe I am, but don't blame me. Blame society. Better yet, blame it on the bossa nova.

*Stan Timmons*
*TM DC Comics, Inc.*

PS: I think I'd get better if I could do a story for Cerebus Jam (is that like toe jam?)

PSS: When does the "What's What" The Definitive Directory of the A-V Universe" come out?

***I haven't blamed anything on the bossa nova since the Cuban Missile Crisis... and I strongly advise you to do the same.***

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave and/or Deni,

Hi guys. You may not remember but I've written once before. I just got my copy of Cerebus #70 and normalman #7 (hardly a lucky number). I know that both of you asked that letters like this one **not** be sent but I still hope you'll read it anyway.

Deni? Granted: people change. But... nothing remains of the two who sixty-five issues of Cerebus ago were so much in love? Nothing? Dave wrote an issue of his comic for you. Something I have to ask... were you two in love or did you love each other too?

Asked by a truly hopeless, yet warm and fuzzy romantic who is a hardcore Aardvark-Vanaheim fan who wishes not to see the A-V titles split up as part of the divorce settlement and who really wishes you two hadn't decided to not be married anymore.

Yours truly,

*Michael Walsh*
*4306 Duncan Drive,*
*Annandale, VA., 22003*

P.S.: You don't really have to respond to my question. Not to **me**, anyway...

***You hopeless warm and fuzzy fan you...***

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dabe:

I fink I gaught a code frub Zerebuz nubber seddedy. Nezz time, gib Bost Holy sub Dristan Dasal Sbray before you led hid do out and infeck your readershib.

Ahchoo.,

*Dereg MgGulloch*
*Den Fiffy sigs sehheny dird Zdreed*
*Emmonton, Alberda*
*Tee sigz kay doo ess ade*

***Ad if Dereg ist here, cad Rob be far behide?***

★★★★★★★★★★

Mizzer Zim:

Id'z all ober Emmonton dow, an iz all your fauld. Iv any fusher zdorylines gall vor Zerebus do ged a zocial disease, forget id righd dow. We don'd want to gall oud an air sdrige on Gidgeder, bud we will iv you force us.

Banzai,

*Gerderalizzimo Rob MgGulloch*
*Zame address as Dereg.*

***Id's exagly three tweddy Easderd Staddard Tibe. Sniff.***

★★★★★★★★★★

Dave!!

I, too, wonder if you could divulge the address of one Ms. Connie Lingus, as she has been incommunicado for the past several months. The reason I wish to get in touch with her, Dave, is that I own the property that is Connie. As her mentor and agent, I produced and directed her first film, **The Exquisite Sanctity of Connie Lingus,** but since my first public showing of this masterpiece (see enclosed street advertisement,) the closest she's come to communicating with me has been the nasty letter I received from her lawyer.

I am, however, a good sport, and I would like to announce that all Presidents of all the Connie fan clubs will receive, gratis, copies of my magazine, MINDFIELD. The first issue features a short story that I wrote, entitled, **The Passion of Connie Lingus.**

Sincerely,

*Sidney Mindfield,*
*94 Fifth Avenue,*
*Brklyn, NY., 11217*

P.S. Cerebus has never been better. If you keep this up, pretty soon it will be as good as **Saluki Sawa Stories** or even **Studs Kirby.**

***Connie sent an address with her letter on the first page, Sid. You two kids play nice, now.***

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

What the hell is going on?

I'm referring to Mike Bannon's letter in issue 70, where he inadvertently referred to you as "pond scum on the lake of kife". Where does he get off speaking for all your loyal fans. I personally know many fans who would gladly strip naked and recite the ten commandments just to have the privilege of doing your laundry (skidmarked undies and all).

However, I do think Mike had a point. Your reputation does need some work. I mean, how many other people do you know that were voted "Most likely to commit a felony with a power tool," by their senior class.

Come on Dave, shape up. You can do better than that.

Respectfully yours,

*Cliff Krapp II*
*1156 Castle Way,*
*Norcross, GA., 30093*

***Actually I was never in a senior class, Cliff. I was however voted "Most Likely to Drop Out" just before I dropped out.***

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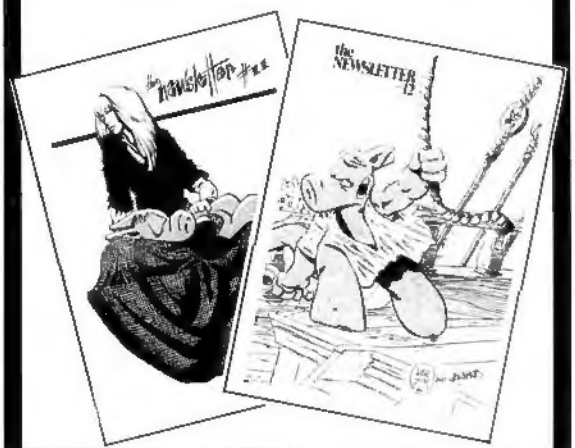


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